

What is claimed is:

1 1. A tele-inventory system for inventorying
2 various kinds of commodities in a shop by an operator
3 from a remote management apparatus that is installed
4 remotely from the shop, comprising:
5 at the shop
6 camera means for taking images of object
7 commodities to be inventoried;
8 image-transmitter means for transmitting said
9 taken images of the object commodities to the remote
10 management apparatus;
11 at the remote management apparatus
12 image-receiver means for receiving said taken
13 images of the object commodities from said
14 image-transmitter means; and
15 display means for displaying said taken images
16 of the object commodities which images have been
17 received by said image-receiver means, whereby the
18 operator is able to make an inventory of the object
19 commodities at the remote management apparatus with
20 consulting said taken images of the object
21 commodities which images have been displayed on said
22 display means.

1 2. A tele-inventory system according to claim
2 1, further comprising:

3 at the remote management apparatus
4 instruction-transmitter means for
5 transmitting instructions of the operator to the
6 shop; and
7 at the shop
8 instruction-receiver means for receiving said
9 instructions of the operator from the remote
10 management apparatus.

1 3. A tele-inventory system according to claim
2 2, further comprising:

3 at the shop
4 camera control means for controlling said
5 camera means based on said instructions of the
6 operator, which have been received by said
7 instruction-receiver means.

1 4. A tele-inventory system according to claim
2 3, further comprising:

3 at the shop
4 manipulator means for manipulating a posture
5 and a position of the individual object commodity;
6 and
7 manipulator controlling means for controlling
8 said manipulator means based on said instructions
9 of the operator, which have been received by said
10 instruction-receiver means.

1 5. A tele-inventory system according to claim
2 3, further comprising:

3 at the shop

4 a database for previously storing commodity
5 information about a correlation between the
6 individual object commodity and position
7 information about a position of the individual
8 object commodity; and

9 said camera control means being operable, based
10 on said instructions received by said
11 instruction-receiver means, to read, from said
12 database, commodity information with respect to the
13 individual object commodity contained in said
14 instructions, and to control said camera means in
15 such a manner that said camera means takes an image
16 of the last-named individual object commodity.

1 6. A tele-inventory system according to claim
2 1, further comprising:

3 at the remote management apparatus

4 pointer means for pointing the individual
5 object commodity in said taken images of the object
6 commodities which images have been displayed on said
7 display means; and

8 marker means for labeling said taken image of
9 the individual object commodity, which image has
10 been pointed by said pointing device, with a